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Claims

1. A method of managing communication with non-fault tolerant network nodes in a fault-tolerant computer network, comprising:
 - determining network addresses of network nodes present in a plurality of networks that are not fault-tolerant and are connected to only a single network;
 - determining the network on which each non-fault tolerant network node exists;
 - storing the detected network address data of the non-fault tolerant network nodes and storing associated network data comprising the network on which the non-fault tolerant network node exists therewith; and
 - sending data intended for a non-fault tolerant network node over only the

PCT/US2015/025606

- network on which the non-fault tolerant network node has been determined to exist.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the network addresses of non-fault-tolerant network nodes comprises detection of network address information that the non-fault-tolerant network nodes send over a network.
 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the network address information that is sent comprises Internet Protocol Address Resolution Protocol packets (IP ARP packets).
 4. The method of claim 2, wherein determining the network on which each non-fault-tolerant network node exists comprises determining which network interface received the network address information sent from each non-fault-tolerant network node.
 5. The method of claim 1, wherein storing the data comprises populating a non-fault-tolerant network node address table.
 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising sending data intended for a non-fault-tolerant network node over both the primary and redundant network if the network on which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists has not been determined.
 7. The method of claim 6, wherein determination of whether the network on which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists has been determined comprises:

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searching an address table for the stored data;

determining the network on which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists has been determined if the address table contains an entry for the non-fault-tolerant network node; and

determining the network on which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists has not been determined if the address table does not contain an entry for the non-fault-tolerant network node.

8. A method of managing communication with non-fault tolerant network nodes in a fault-tolerant computer network, comprising:

transmitting data from a transmitting node to a non-fault tolerant network node over a primary network; and

transmitting data from the transmitting node to the non-fault tolerant network node over a redundant network.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising receiving and retransmitting the data via an intermediate node when the transmitting node is unable to communicate with both the primary and redundant networks, such that if the intermediate node receives the data via the redundant network it retransmits the data on the primary network and if the intermediate node receives the data via the primary network it retransmits the data on the redundant network.

10. A fault-tolerant network node interface operable to communicate with non-fault-

tolerant network nodes, the interface operable to:

determine the network addresses of network nodes present in a plurality of networks that are not fault-tolerant and are connected to only a single network;

determine the network on which each non-fault tolerant network node exists;

store the detected network address data of the non-fault tolerant network nodes and to store associated network data comprising the network on which the non-fault tolerant network node exists therewith; and

send data intended for a non-fault tolerant network node over only the network on which the non-fault tolerant network node has been determined to exist.

11. The interface of claim 10, wherein determining the network addresses of non-fault-tolerant network nodes comprises detection of network address information that the non-fault-tolerant network nodes send over a network.

12. The interface of claim 11, wherein the network address information that is sent comprises Internet Protocol Address Resolution Protocol packets (IP ARP packets).

13. The interface of claim 11, wherein determining the network on which each non-fault-tolerant network node exists comprises determining which network interface received the network address information sent from each non-fault-tolerant network node.

USPTO-2023-000000

14. The interface of claim 10, wherein storing the data comprises populating a non-fault-tolerant network node address table.
15. The interface of claim 10, wherein the network interface is further operable to send data intended for a non-fault-tolerant network node over both the primary and redundant network if the network on which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists has not been determined.
16. The interface of claim 15, wherein determination of whether the network on which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists has been determined comprises:
 - searching an address table for the stored data;
 - determining the network on which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists has been determined if the address table contains an entry for the non-fault-tolerant network node; and
 - determining the network on which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists has not been determined if the address table does not contain an entry for the non-fault-tolerant network node.
17. A fault-tolerant network node interface operable to communicate with non-fault-tolerant network nodes, the interface operable to:
 - transmit data to a non-fault-tolerant network node over a primary network; and
 - transmit data to a non-fault-tolerant network node over a redundant network.

18. The interface of claim 17, wherein transmitting data to a non-fault tolerant network node comprises receiving and retransmitting the data via an intermediate node when the transmitting node is unable to communicate with both the primary and redundant networks, such that if the intermediate node receives the data via the redundant network it retransmits the data on the primary network and if the intermediate node receives the data via the primary network it retransmits the data on the redundant network.

19. A machine-readable medium with instructions stored thereon, the instructions when executed on a computerized system operable to cause the computerized system to:

determine the network addresses of network nodes present in a plurality of networks that are not fault-tolerant and are connected to only a single network;

determine the network on which each non-fault tolerant network node exists;

store the detected network address data of the non-fault tolerant network nodes and to store associated network data comprising the network on which the non-fault tolerant network node exists therewith; and

send data intended for a non-fault tolerant network node over only the network on which the non-fault tolerant network node has been determined to exist.

20. The machine-readable medium of claim 19, wherein determining the network

addresses of non-fault-tolerant network nodes comprises detection of network address information that the non-fault-tolerant network nodes send over a network.

21. The machine-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the network address information that is sent comprises Internet Protocol Address Resolution Protocol packets (IP ARP packets).
22. The machine-readable medium of claim 20, wherein determining the network on which each non-fault-tolerant network node exists comprises determining which network interface received the network address information sent from each non-fault-tolerant network node.
23. The machine-readable medium of claim 19, wherein storing the data comprises populating a non-fault-tolerant network node address table.
24. The machine-readable medium of claim 19, the instructions when executed further operable to cause a computerized system to send data intended for a non-fault-tolerant network node over both the primary and the redundant network if the network on which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists has not been determined.
25. The machine-readable medium of claim 24, wherein determination of whether the network on which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists has been determined

comprises:

searching an address table for the stored data;
determining the network on which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists
has been determined if the address table contains an entry for the non-fault-tolerant
network node; and
determining the network on which the non-fault-tolerant network node exists
has not been determined if the address table does not contain an entry for the non-
fault-tolerant network node.

26. A machine-readable medium with instructions stored thereon, the instructions
when executed on a computerized system operable to cause the computerized system
to:

transmit data to a non-fault-tolerant network node over a primary network; and
transmit data to the non-fault-tolerant network node over a redundant network.

27. The machine-readable medium of claim 26, the instructions when executed further
operable to cause a computerized network of nodes to receive and retransmit the data
via an intermediate node when the transmitting node is unable to communicate with
both the primary and redundant networks, such that if the intermediate node receives
the data via the redundant network it retransmits the data on the primary network and
if the intermediate node receives the data via the primary network it retransmits the
data on the redundant network.